DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Geographic News Bulletin

This bulletin is issued weekly by the Department of the Interior. The information in it is obtained from the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, Washington, D. C.

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CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION BEFORE THE CATHEDRAL: LIMA, PERU

The "conflict of old and new" is vividly emphasized in this picture, where a repair wagon of trolley lines is seen at the right only a few feet from this religious procession so redolent of the middle ages. The towers of the cathedral are made of plaster and laths. In this land of earthquakes it was not considered safe to build them of stone.

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Where America's Most Treasured Documents Are Kept

THE most important chronicles of some ancient nations have come down to present generations engraved on porphyry and marble. The United States, however, having existed wholly in an "age of paper," has all its most precious historical records in the form of paper documents, which can easily be destroyed by fire, and injured by dampness, extreme dryness, or rough handling.

A recent fire which destroyed irreplaceable records in the Census Bureau at Washington, and an almost simultaneous fire in the State capitol of West Virginia which practically wiped out the archives of that State, have reinforced the argument of those urging that a fireproof hall of records be built in Washington so the Federal Government's priceless papers may be kept in safety.

A Steel "Ark of the Covenant"

While the Constitution is the most important document possessed by the United States, the Declaration of Independence comes first among our great state papers in point of time and probably in the hearts of the American people. The original of this challenge to tyranny, which, like the shot fired at Lexington, has been heard round the world, and has helped to mold monarchies and colonies into republics, is in the hands of the Department of State and is kept in a steel case in the State, War and Navy Building, which adjoins the White House on the west. The original of the Constitution is locked in the same case, which may therefore be considered the steel Ark of the Covenant of the Government of the United States.

Washington's Farewell Address may fairly be considered one of the greatest papers produced in the 145 years of the Republic's independence. This document is not owned by the Federal Government, but is kept in the New York Public Library, at Forty-second Street and Fifth Avenue.

The next paper to stand out as a milepost in the shaping of a national policy is the message to Congress by President Monroe proclaiming the Monroe Doctrine. The original message is in the files of the Senate, in the Capitol Building at Washington.

Gettysburg Address in Congressional Library—And Newspapers

The Gettysburg Address of Lincoln, scrawled in longhand, is in the Library of Congress, at Washington. This address, now considered one of the great orations of the world, attracted little attention when it was delivered. In the newspaper reports of the following day it was subordinated to the long, flowery speech of Edward Everett, delivered from the same platform. The speech was published, however, an important fact, for by the time of the Civil War and to a rapidly increasing extent since, newspapers by multiplying copies of important documents have made their contents safe from destruction even though the prized originals may be lost. By still another step, applied science has multiplied the form of famous records as well as their wording. Because of the photographic

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It is in this famous and imposing building—which no American needs to have identified for him—that the original of the Monroe Doctrine is kept. A document would seem to be fairly safe in this great stone structure, but the edifice was once badly damaged by fire in the early days of the nation's history. Several similar buildings, housing the governments of States, have been destroyed by flames.

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Lima and Callao, Where Uncle Sam's Bluejackets Visited

AMERICAN Bluejackets of the Atlantic Fleet recently visited Lima, capital of Peru, after the passage of the fighting ships through the Panama Canal. The fleet lay at anchor at Callao, the port of Lima, only a few miles away.

The history of Callao's sheltered bay, which constitutes one of the best harbors on the Pacific coast of South America, may be considered to have begun shortly after Pizarro and his bearded comrades entered Peru in 1532.

Starting Point for Spanish Treasure Ships

From Callao in the years that followed sailed a constant stream of galleons loaded with the gold and silver that the Conquistadores stripped from the rich continent on which they had gained a foothold. Lima, only eight miles inland, became the seat of the vice-regal government by which all South America was ruled, and Callao was practically the only gate through which the treasure gathered by the colonial agencies was poured into the lap of the Spanish king. Close to Callao often hovered British and Dutch pirates to swoop down on the treasure ships.

Callao was the first Pacific port in South America to have completed modern harbor works. Treasure is still being taken from Peru through Callao, but now it is in the form of copper ore from the rich mines of the interior. It is transported to the port on a modern railroad, instead of on the backs of men and donkeys, and is loaded on great ocean freighters by modern power cranes.

Plaza Once Solar Plexus of Continent

A half hour after boarding an electric car in the city of Callao the traveler alights at one of the many plazas in Lima, capital of Peru and a thriving city of 200,000 inhabitants. Not far away he will find the center of the city's life and traditions—the Plaza Mayor, or "great square." All of the city's street-car lines radiate from this center, as though representing the influence and power that radiated from the same spot to all South America when Lima was the "City of the Kings." On one side of the Plaza Mayor rises the Cathedral, with its lofty twin towers. Pizarro is said to have laid the foundation stones. His mummy is now exhibited inside the structure.

Facing another side of the main plaza is the old vice-regal palace, still used for governmental purposes. Not far away is the oldest university in the western hemisphere, the Universidad de San Marcos, established more than half a century before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth. In the Lima of the present the classic old Universidad shares the educational field with thoroughly modern technical colleges devoted to engineering, medicine, and agriculture.

Lima and Callao, thought of vaguely perhaps by many as somewhere near the northern end of South America's Pacific coast, are approximately 1,600 miles

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copies that have been made, school children today may be as familiar with the appearance of the Constitution or the Declaration of Independence as the favored few who have looked upon the treasured originals.

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation is in the library of the State Department in Washington, and there, too, are all the treaties entered into by the United States, from that of 1778 with the French and that of 1783 which closed the Revolution, down to the present. Among these, perhaps the most interesting are those which have contributed to the great territorial growth of the country.

There is the treaty of 1803 with France, which arranged for what is probably the greatest real estate "deal" in history—the Louisiana Purchase. There is the treaty with Spain, which added Florida to the new republic, and the uncompleted treaty with the independent Republic of Texas, which led to the only instance in which a separate nation has merged itself with the United States. Near them in the files of the State Department are the treaties with Mexico adding to the United States California and the other territory west of Texas and south of Oregon; the treaty with Great Britain adding Oregon; the treaty with Russia arranging for the second greatest purchase of territory, the Alaska Purchase; and the treaties which have resulted in bringing Hawaii, the Philippines, Porto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands under the American flag.

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Valparaiso, Where Our Fleet Inspected Chile's Annapolis

VALPARAISO, home of Chile's Naval Academy, was visited recently by the United States Pacific fleet while the Atlantic fleet was anchored at Callao, Peru. The harbor of Valparaiso, while not so remarkable as that of Rio de Janeiro, where tropical verdure runs riot among granite crags, nor so idyllic as vivid, sun-bathed Naples, still deserves to rank with them and three or four others as the most beautiful and striking of the important harbors of the world. It is no detraction to say that Valparaiso's name—"Vale of Paradise"—is not merited. Such a name suggests soft lines, rolling greensward, flower-strewn meadows, shady paths, noble groves. The beauty of Valparaiso is more austere.

A City of Outdoor Elevators

Sailing into Valparaiso the voyager enters a wide semi-circular bay flanked by high capes. On a narrow level strip of ground that borders the curving shore line is the well-built business section of the city. Behind and above this level portion of Valparaiso tower bluffs and steep semi-arid hills. These highlands once hemmed in the old city, but modern Valparaiso has burst its bonds. Fine castle-like residences now cling to the slopes of many of the hills or perch upon the edges of the bluffs. Streets and avenues wind their way to the upper level, and there the newer residence portion of the city has developed. As in Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and Quebec, inclined railways, or "ascensors," carry to the upper city pedestrians who prefer not to negotiate the long climbs on foot.

Valparaiso has a population of 230,000. It is by far the most important South American Pacific port, and the annual value of its commerce exceeds that of Montevideo, on the Atlantic coast.

Building Breakwaters With House-Like Blocks

While Buenos Aires and Montevideo, on the east coast, have been handicapped by the shallowness of their harbors, Valparaiso's difficulties have lain in the opposite direction. Its waters are so deep that the building of breakwaters and jetties was delayed until 1912. The carrying out of the entire harbor improvement now under way will cost $15,000,000 or more.

In order to construct the main breakwater, engineers are building great hollow cement cubes fifty feet along the edges, and towing them into place, filling them with stone, and sinking them. The completion of the work which will rest on these Gargantuan blocks will furnish a protected harbor of 220 acres.

Rose Like San Francisco After Earthquake

In 1906, the year in which San Francisco was destroyed by earthquake and fire, Valparaiso was also devastated by the same two forces of destruction. Like San Francisco, South America's greatest Pacific port city has risen from its

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south of Panama—as far from the isthmus as Key West is from Nova Scotia. Though only ten degrees south of the equator, and therefore well within the tropics, these cities, due to the dryness of the western slopes of the Andes and to the cold Humboldt Current that washes the coast, have an equable climate. The temperature in summer (December to May) seldom rises above 80 degrees Fahrenheit, and in winter rarely falls below 60 degrees.

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Riga: Where Boards of Trade and Trusts Were Born

HE who thinks that vast monopolies are modern enterprises, or that chambers of commerce are latter-day civic institutions, or that Prussians first strove to implant Kultur with a sword in 1914, will be disillusioned if he reads the history of Riga, chief city of Latvia, on the Baltic, through which city such intercourse as has been had with Russia in recent months has largely been carried on.

Riga, which was attacked by German troops in 1919, had to wrest itself free from Prussian control once before, and thereby hangs the story of an early exploit like the attempted subjugation of Belgium and the deportation of its workers.

About the middle of the twelfth century a few German merchants established settlements about the mouth of the Dvina, which empties into the Gulf of Riga nine miles below the present city of Riga. Whereupon Bishop Albert, in the role of a missionary, sought to colonize the territory in 1201 by building a town where Riga now stands, and the following year he founded the Brethren of the Sword.

Brethren of the Sword Well Named

The new order was well named. It killed where it could not convert, though slaughter was not the main object after a foothold on the promising Baltic port was obtained. The "missionaries" were satisfied to reduce the native population to serfdom, appropriate the land, and build fortified towns and castles to uphold this miniature feudal system in a land they aimed to exploit.

But the Livonians are a liberty-loving people. They resisted despotism then, and many times later, just as a year or so ago they rebelled against Bolshevism. When their early oppressors became too severe they arose and drove out the "missionaries." Later Livonia, and Riga, which became its capital, espoused the Christian religion, and the Order of the Sword merged with the Teutonic Knights and continued its operations in other quarters.

Prussia Maintained Economic Ties

Though Prussia's political hold was shaken off Riga, it maintained its economic ties there, and individual Germans usually have been important factors in its commerce. This phase of German influence was consummated when Riga, in the thirteenth century, became a member of the Hanseatic League, the first great trust which for two centuries controlled practically all the trade channels of continental Europe north of the Alps.

Riga was conspicuous among the eighty-five cities belonging to this giant combine at the height of its power in the later fourteenth century. Thus Riga attained a commercial importance which it never relinquished, and even in 1914 it was accounted second only to St. Petersburg (now Petrograd) among the Baltic cities in the volume of its trade.

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crumbled stone and ashes, not merely to rehabilitate itself, but to become even greater and more prosperous.

Valparaiso is in practically the same latitude as Buenos Aires, Cape Town, and Sydney, and is about the same distance from the equator in the south as San Francisco and Charleston, S. C., are in the north.

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Klagenfurt: A Self-determined Area

THE Klagenfurt area, the only region in which a plebiscite was provided for in the treaty between the Allies and Austria, has been retained by Austria as a result of the vote which was taken several months ago.

When the crazy-quilt patchwork of diverse peoples that made up the old Austro-Hungarian Empire was ripped apart by the treaty of St. Germain and rearranged more nearly in accordance with nationality and language, it was clear that the old Austrian province of Carniola, extending from the Klagenfurt area south almost to Fiume, was Slavonic in its population. It was therefore included in the Jugo-Slav kingdom along with the other obviously Slavonic provinces in the southern part of the old empire: Bosnia, Dalmatia, Herzegovina, Croatia and Slavonia.

An Ethnic "Twilight Zone"

Carinthia, the province adjoining Carniola on the north and containing the Klagenfurt area, was recognized, on the other hand, to be predominantly Teutonic as a whole. But it was seen that the southeastern section of the province, the valley of the Drave River about Klagenfurt, had a heavy population of Slovenes. It was felt by the Allies that the question whether the Teutons or the Slavs predominated in the region should be definitely determined and that the area should be attached, according to the desires of the majority of the residents, to the Teutonic republic of Austria or to the Slav kingdom to the south.

The region which Austria retains as a result of the plebiscite is roughly almond-shaped, approximately fifty miles in extreme length and twenty-five miles in extreme breadth, with an area of something more than 600 square miles—slightly less than one-third that of Delaware. It contains much mountain land, but also a portion of the rich Drave valley, one of the most productive parts of Carinthia.

Austria Keeps Rich Lead Mines

One of the most important results of the vote to the Austrians is that they will retain the rich lead mines of Bleiburg, perhaps the most important in all the old territory of Austria-Hungary. In the city of Klagenfurt, with its population of about 25,000, the Austrian Republic retains one of its important metal-working centers.

The Klagenfurt region came near being a bone of contention among three nations instead of two. Its western end almost touches the flaring top of the Italian boot, and during a great part of the World War its mountain peaks echoed the thunder of the great Italian and Austrian guns on the Isonzo front, a few miles to the southwest.

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It is hard to realize what tremendous impetus the operations of this league of cities attained in the middle ages. It had been formed for the sole purpose of resisting piracy, and it left in its wake such mementoes of its prosperity as Hamburg, Bremen and Lubeck, which retained their rights as free cities within the German Empire until the league's downfall.

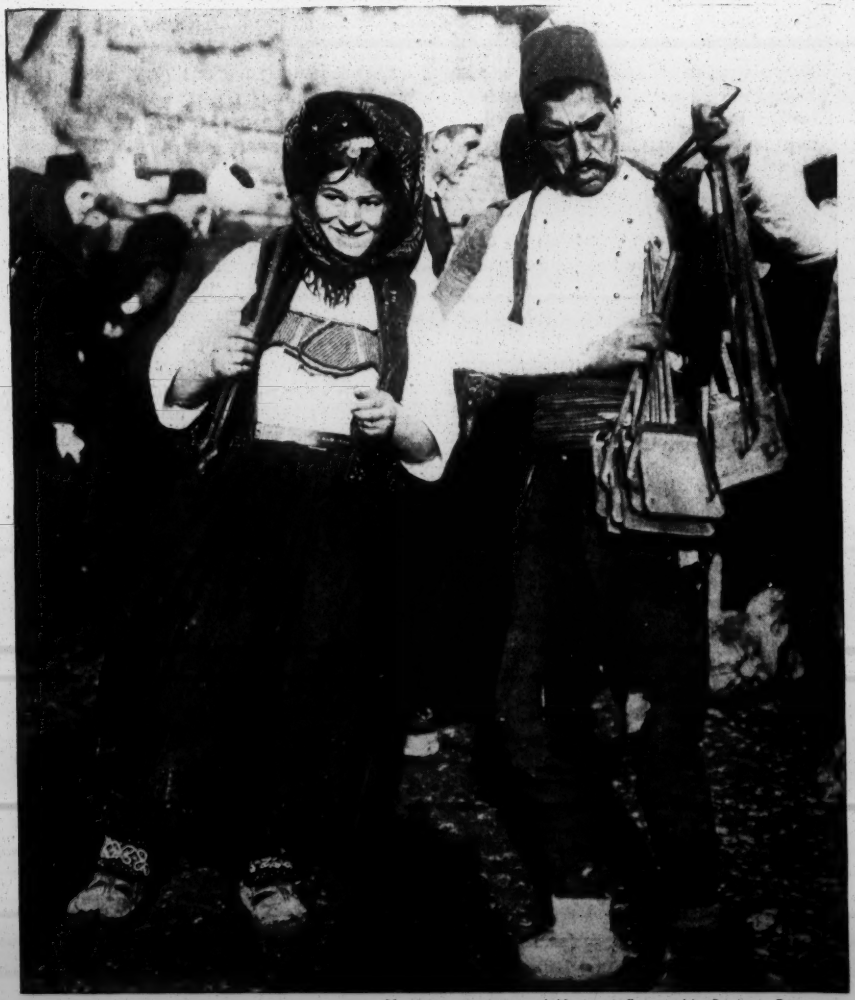
"Young Business Men" Start Things

The third modern aspect of medieval Riga is to be found in the famous "Blackheads." It was this body which soon came to have the civic importance, and apparently many of the functions, of a chamber of commerce or board of trade today.

Originally it was organized, by the young traders who came to Riga, as a social club, to afford fellowship in addition to the needful board and lodgings during their sojourn. Since the members were mostly young men, progressive, and somewhat assertive, they took their name to distinguish themselves from their elders, or greybeards. Naturally their table talk turned to ways of promoting business, and soon the club became, in effect, an organization for a "Bigger, Better, and Busier Riga," as the modern trade body would phrase it. The Hall of the Blackheads, built in 1330, is one of the oldest landmarks of the city.

A survival of the thirteenth century is the Cathedral of the Virgin, rebuilt most recently in 1883, when there was installed one of the largest pipe organs in the world—almost as large as the mammoth instruments at Asbury Park, N. J., and in the town hall of Sydney, Australia.

From the beginning of the World War Riga was an objective of the Central Powers, because of its importance as a focal point for the lumber from White Russia and Volhynia, the flax from northwestern Russia, and other products from a wide area with which it has rail and water communication. Its pre-war prosperity is indicated by the growth of its population from 102,000 in 1867 to more than 500,000 in 1913.



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TWO SLAVS OF KLAGENFURT

Jugo-Slavs similar to those shown in this picture live in considerable numbers among the Germanic people of the Klagenfurt region. It was the presence of this Slavonic element in the area which prompted the Allies to insist on the holding of a plebiscite.